REMARKS

In the Office Action dated February 9, 2005, claims 19, 25-27, 30 and 33-36 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being unpatentable in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,308,101 to Faltys et al. ("*Faltys*"); claims 22 and 23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious over Faltys and in further view of U.S. Patent No. 4,065,735 to Palfreeman et al. ("*Palfreeman*"); claim 24 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious over *Faltys* and *Palfreeman* and in further view of U.S. Patent No. 6,127,768 to Stoner et al. ("*Stoner*"); claim 28 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious over *Faltys* and in further view of *Stoner*; and claims 31 and 32 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious over *Faltys* and in further view of U.S. Patent No. 5,751,418 to Murase ("*Murase*"). Claim 37 is allowed. Also, claims 20, 21 and 29 are objected to. Claims 38-40 have been newly added, and claims 19-36 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. No new matter has been added. Applicants believe that the rejections have been overcome for at least those reasons set forth below.

At the outset, claims 20, 21 and 29 are objected to but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. See, Office Action, page 6. In response, Applicants have cancelled claims 19-36 without prejudice or disclaimer and added claims 38-40 that essentially incorporate the limitations of claims 20, 21 and 29, respectively, in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any interviewing claims, respectively. Therefore, claims 38-40 should be considered allowable and the prior art rejections should be rendered moot as claims 19-36 have been cancelled.

For the foregoing reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that the present application is in condition for allowance and earnestly solicits reconsideration of same.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: <u>May 3, 2005</u>